

THE ROMULUS ROMAN

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September 2 - 8, 2004

Comcast revokes senior citizens' discount

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

A discount that seniors in the Romulus community have enjoyed for many years has abruptly come to an end at the hands of Comcast Cable.

Since Comcast began providing cable service in Romulus more than 4 years ago, the senior citizen discount that was given by the former cable provider, Media One, has been honored, according to Councilwoman Debbie Romak.

"Comcast has been honoring this discount for all this time and then all of a sudden they just raise the rates on our seniors," said Romak. "That is just bad policy."

Until recently seniors were receiving a discount of anywhere from \$12-\$15 on monthly cable service, said Romak. Now, along with the annual \$2 to \$3 rate hike that all Comcast customers experience, Romulus seniors are also dealing with the loss of their discount.

"This is a very big issue in this community," said

Residents began coming into the office and complaining to the mayor that their cable bills were twice as much as they had been.

Kathleen Trent

Romak. "Some of our seniors are on very limited incomes and they spend their money very carefully. A \$15 rate hike for them is serious, because their income is so limited to begin with."

Concern at the city level began when seniors attended city council meetings and visited Mayor Alan Lambert's office complaining about their cable bills, according to Kathleen Trent, public relations director for the city.

"Residents began coming into the office and complaining to the mayor that their cable bills were twice as

much as they had been," said Trent. "So we decided to take action and began keeping a list of residents who were protesting the rate hike for our seniors."

Trent said that when the city contacted Comcast, they were told that Comcast was updating their accounting system and the old Media One accounts, which honored the senior discount, would now be updated to the correct amount in the system.

"I would like to know why, after 4 years, all of sudden Comcast decided to cut the discounts to our seniors," said Romak. "For many of our seniors, their cable is how they stay informed as to what is happening in their community. And for others it is their only form of entertainment."

Romak said she believes the problem is that Comcast has created a monopoly in the cable system that Romulus residents are stuck.

"There is no other cable provider that wants to come

See **Cable**, page 3

'Que and A'

Residents of Romulus gathered at the Coleman Center last week for one of Mayor Alan Lambert's Town Meetings. From left to right, Bruce Donald, Laconia Smith, Monica Nelson, Reginald Nelson, Planning Commissioner, Mayor Alan Lambert, Diane Banks and Richard Suiter, assistant department of public works director.

'Get Moving, Get Healthy' summer comes to an end

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

How healthy have you been during the summer?

That's a question Gina Wilson, executive director of the PEN Enrichment Community Center wants to answer.

"We are so excited to see how everyone did over the summer," said Wilson. "We know that a lot of people in Romulus have stuck with the program."

The summer of 2004 was the "Get Moving, Get Healthy" summer in Romulus. The program, which began with a health fair in May, is coming to an end during the annual Pumpkin Festival.

Throughout the summer, participants have attended different workshops and seminars aimed at helping people get fit and stay active, according to Wilson.

"We had such a great feedback that we are going to extend the program through the fall and make it the "Get Moving, Get Healthy" year in Romulus," said Wilson.

Due to the increased participation during the summer, the PEN Enrichment Community Center began scheduling weekly exercise classes every Tuesday to help their members stay active. The class is composed of a good workout, according to Wilson, as well as helpful healthy nutritional hints to help participants eat healthy.

The final test for the summer participants will be the weigh-in at the Pumpkin Festival. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 18, residents will be able to visit a booth that will be set up on Goddard Road in the middle of downtown Romulus to see how

much weight they have lost in the last three months.

"Well I know that people have seriously lost some weight," said Wilson. "Janice Willis lost 15 pounds this summer by eating right and exercising three or more times a week."

The PEN Enrichment Community Center, along with the Healthy Living Advisory Committee, the Mayor's Drug Task Force and the Romulus Recreation Department are also sponsoring the first "Get Healthy Family Fun Run" during the Pumpkin Festival.

"This is a chance for families to get out and walk to stay fit," said Wilson, "but at the same time do it as a family, which is very important."

Registration for the walk will begin at 8 a.m. on Sept. 18 at the Romulus Middle School track. There will then be a group stretch led by members of the Romulus High School track team at 8:15 a.m. The walk/run will begin at 8:30 a.m.

Participants will walk or run around the track at their own pace. Each participant will receive a t-shirt, pedometer and a gift bag for the \$5 entry fee. The fee per family will be \$15.

All proceeds from the event will go to support the Healthy Living Advisory Committee and PEN Enrichment Community Center to help address the problem of childhood obesity.

"We just want to keep encouraging everyone in our community to stay healthy and keep moving throughout the rest of this year," said Wilson. "And most importantly have fun doing it."

For more information call (734) 942-6852.

Tobacco prevention drive targets teens

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Students from Romulus, River Rouge, Detroit, Inkster and Oak Park are trying to make a difference in the fight to stop underage smoking in their communities, according to Gina Wilson, executive director of the PEN Enrichment Community Center in Romulus.

"These kids are coming out and telling their friends that they shouldn't smoke," said Wilson. "At the same time they are also giving them all the reasons they shouldn't smoke."

More than 70 youngsters, ranging in age from 9 to 17,

attended tobacco prevention classes twice a week throughout the summer at the PEN Enrichment Community Center.

During these classes, students were taught about the harmful products that are in cigarettes and the health consequences people can suffer from smoking.

"I think it made a huge impact on these kids," said Wilson. "Now, they want to make sure that their friends know what they have learned about what cigarettes can do."

To kick off the program in June, Wilson said PEN worked with local retailers to see how many stores in Romulus would sell cigarettes to underage chil-

dren.

An underage buyer went into local retail stores accompanied by an adult, and attempted to purchase a pack of cigarettes. The students covered more than 30 stores in the Romulus area alone and Wilson said 42 percent of the stores would have sold the cigarettes to the underage buyer without asking for identification that is required by law. The students never actually walked out of the store with the cigarettes. When the clerk gave them to the student, they would say they forgot their money.

"We were actually shocked

See **Prevention**, page 3

Local talent shows off during Wayne County Fair search

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Wayne County Fair organizers found the newest upcoming superstars last week.

Twelve winners were given top spots in the Wayne County Fair sixth annual talent search. Each category—junior, senior, adult and all-ages open division—was awarded a first, second and third place winner.

Performers were judged on appearance, stage presence, rhythm and expression.

Numerous participants of Belleville took home the top spots—four total.

First place winners in each division—Kelsey Rose Young, 8, from Canton Township; Lauren Hannum, 15, from Garden City; Mary Knorp from Belleville and the "Soul Sistas"—Lauren and Samantha Hannum from Garden City—all received \$200 and a trophy. Each of the first placers winners won for vocal performances.

Second place winners in each division—Krysten Davis, 13, from Belleville who performed a

dance routine; rap artist Mizfit, 20, from Southgate; Phil Morin from Belleville who sang and Melodie Myshock from Belleville who performed a dance—received \$100 and a trophy.

Third place winners in each division—Lynnae Winnie, 11, from Taylor; Jenay Rawlings, 27, from Port Huron; Vicki Talbott from Pontiac and Mizfit—received \$50 and a trophy. Each of the third place winners won for their vocal performance. Carla Gibson, talent show director, added that each winner will

also have the opportunity to perform at the 2005 Michigan State Fair and the 2005 Belleville National Strawberry Festival.

The talent show search is always a nice show featuring some of the finest area talent, according to Festival Organizer Karen Sledobnik.

"Many local people who are now big names in the industry started out at the Wayne County Fair," said Sledobnik.

Area singers Josh Gracin, Rachel Williams, April Gibson and Tommi Williams are just a

few, she said. Gracin has won raves from *American Idol*, Tommi Williams has performed on TV shows such as *Good Morning America* and the Detroit Fireworks, Gibson has performed at festivals and fairs throughout Michigan including the Michigan State Fair and the Belleville National Strawberry Festival and Rachel Williams has performed on country music television shows such as *Nashville Star 2*.

"All the winners were great," Sledobnik said.

Incumbent sheriff seeks election

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

The incumbent Wayne County Sheriff hopes his record will help him beat a familiar name in county politics in his first-ever bid for election.

Sheriff Warren Evans, who was appointed to the sheriff's post almost 2 years after former sheriff Robert Ficano was elected Wayne County executive in 2003, took the lion's share of the vote in the August 2004 primary, defeating seven other Democrats with 47 percent of the vote. Only 33 percent of voters pulled the lever for the other Democratic candidates.

Evans, 55, will face former Wayne County Sheriff Bill Lucas, who garnered 19 percent of the vote during the primary. Lucas, who was also a Wayne County Circuit Court judge, served as sheriff for 12 years in the 1970s and 1980s.

If elected, Evans said his priorities will be stopping Internet predators, apprehending fugitives who are guilty of felonies, improving operations at the three county jail facilities and putting into place enforcement plans to locate missing children.

"I think anybody who questions what's happening (at the sheriff's department) should look at the record," Evans said. "Our fugitive apprehension efforts have taken 5,000 dangerous individuals off the street, so they can no longer commit crimes against citizens."

Evans is particularly proud of the county Internet crime unit. Once eliminated because of budget constraints, the unit was eventually reinstated and is helping bring people who use computers to victimize children to justice, Evans said. So far the unit, under his watch, has caught 53 perpetrators. The Missing and Exploited Children's Unit was also created under his tenure to respond immediately when a child goes missing.

"Other units require that a parent wait for 24 hours, but 24 hours is enough time for something terrible to happen," he said. "This unit starts working immediately to locate a child and hopefully return (him or her) home safely."

Evans' 30-plus years in law enforcement began in 1970 when he joined the Wayne County Sheriff's Department in 1970 as a deputy. He worked his way through the ranks, eventually serving as the youngest lieutenant in the department at 28, according to county information. He was named undersheriff in

*I think anybody who questions
what's happening (at the sheriff's department)
should look at the record.*

Sheriff Warren Evans

1987, a spot he occupied until 1991, when he was tapped to serve as the director of administration for the Wayne County Commission.

One year later, then county-executive Ed McNamara tapped Evans to create the Department of Community Justice, where he made provisions for a new juvenile detention facility and the implementation of programs to help troubled young offenders. In 1997, he left the sheriff's department and started a juvenile justice consultancy. In 2001, Evans accepted

a job as Chief of Special Operations at the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office. Special Operations handles major drug and auto theft investigations, as well as juvenile cases.

Since he was appointed in 2003, Evans said the changes he has made in the structure of the sheriff's department have met with little opposition, although the opposition has been vocal.

"We have a few malcontents, which is to be expected," he said, "but they are a minority."

Evans also said comments made by Lucas about low morale among the department's 1,300 employees are unfounded.

"(Lucas) has been a father figure for most of my professional life," he said. "But we don't have morale problems, in fact, I think it's the opposite," he said. "The people of the department are doing a great job getting more criminals off the street. If (employees) aren't happy, they're not going to work as hard. If you don't like your job, and you don't like the person you're working for, you're not going to get results we have."

In addition, students receive a 'reality check' when they randomly select a slip providing one of life's little surprises including a small check or a large dental bill.

The women's club is looking for volunteers to help the students as they move through out the stations.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact 734-699-6970 or 734-699-3409.

Reality Store seeking school vounteers

The Belleville Business and Professional Women's Club will host a Reality Store to help eighth grade students learn the basic skills of financial planning, decision-making and career planning.

The store will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 13 at North Middle School in Belleville. Student assume the role of a 25-year-old employed in a career of their choice. They are assigned a marital status and the number of dependents they have. Students then move from station to station at the store to pay for food, housing, clothing and insur-

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For more information or to make an appointment to register for classes,
Please call (734) 532-1954.



The Romulus School district welcomed nine new teachers this week as school began. Members of the Romulus Board of Education came out to a lunch/orientation for the new teachers to welcome to the community and help them get familiar with the Romulus school curriculum and policies.



Schools welcome 9 new teachers

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Parents are breathing a sigh of relief this week as the day they waited for all summer has finally arrived. School is back in session.

While the start of the new school year brings students back into the classrooms, it also brings new faces to the halls of the Romulus schools.

This year nine new faculty members will be introducing themselves to students and getting accustomed to the Romulus system, according to Dick Kruse, public relations director for the Romulus School District.

"We have a great group of new teachers this year," said Kruse. "It was definitely competitive for the open positions. We had a lot of applicants, but we believe we have chosen the

right group of teachers for our students."

The new teachers completed a special orientation session directed by Kruse that introduced them to the Romulus schools curriculum, technology program and facilities.

Superintendent of Schools Joel Carr also addressed the new teachers.

"We know you are outstanding teachers, because you all came to us through a comprehensive and competitive selection process," he told them.

Kruse said the teachers also viewed a video about the award winning district student-parent compact that had more than 1,500 parents donate 9,500 hours of volunteer work to their child's school last year.

Romulus Board of Education President Cheryle Buckley, Secretary Celeste

Roscoe, Treasurer Ken Mientkiewicz and trustees Niema White and Betty Lenossi were also on hand to welcome the new teachers during a lunch in their honor.

Maria Alvarez and Alana Roach will be teaching special education and Brian Wietfeld will be teaching computers at Romulus Middle School. Connie Garza-Beyer will be teaching fifth grade at Cory Elementary and Julie Wadsworth will be teaching sixth grade at Barth Elementary.

At the high school this year Alexia Manchilla will be teaching special education and Paul Polanski will be teaching science.

Tim Jager will be teaching physical education and Jenny Sayer will be teaching language arts at the Community High School.

Recreation department offers youth activities

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

School is in full swing, the Pumpkin Festival is just around the corner and the summer fun is beginning to wind down for the fall, but good times don't have to end.

The Romulus Recreation Department is offering students a way to stay active through the fall.

Programs include everything from clogging to soccer programs, according to Kristin Irwin, recreation program coordinator.

"We try to offer a wide variety of programs so that all kids have something they can participate in," said Irwin.

Since the United States brought home the silver medal in both the men's and women's gymnastics competition during the summer Olympics, many youngsters want to follow the lead of the all around gold medallists Carly Patterson and Paul Hamm. The tumblebunnies gymnastics program can give children that chance.

Each week a different theme is used and participants use a variety of equipment such as trampolines, beams, octagons, wedge mats and bars. Classes take place every Monday from Sept. 20 through Nov. 1 at one of three time periods, depending

on the age of the child. There is a \$60 registration fee for the class. Registration ends Sept. 17.

After school soccer will also be offered this fall, beginning Sept. 14 and ending Nov. 4. The program is for kids in third to sixth grade. Practices and games are on Tuesdays and Thursdays; practices will take place after school at the school the child attends. The games will be at alternating schools each week. The cost of the program is \$30 if a t-shirt is needed or \$25 is the student already has a t-shirt from last year. Registration deadline is Sept. 9.

Cheer America classes will also be offered for boys and girls ages 4-15. This course is designed for making friends while learning choreographed pom-pom and dance routines, according to Irwin. Participants will learn popular jumps, leaps and several other skills required for school try-outs. Registration will take place at 6:30 p.m. Thursday Sept. 16 at Halecreek Elementary. The first class will begin immediately following registration. Classes are \$6 per week with a non-refundable \$6 registration fee.

The recreation center will also be offering clogging classes running from Sept. 13 through Nov. 29.

For more information call (734) 942-6852.

Prevention

FROM PAGE 1

that so many stores would have sold to our kids," said Wilson. "But, then we felt that we needed to do something about that."

Wilson wrote a letter to each store that would have sold to the minors telling them that this is against the law.

"In each letter we wrote the date and time we were in the store and described the clerk," said Wilson. "We just wanted them to know what was going on

in their stores."

A letter was also sent to all of the stores that did not sell to the minors along with a certificate for them to hang up.

After a summer of learning about all the harmful effects of smoking, the students in the program are now taking the information they have learned and telling their friends.

"These kids are taking youth tobacco prevention pledge sign ups to their friends and asking them to sign them," said Wilson. "By signing the pledge these kids are promising they will not smoke."

Cable

FROM PAGE 1

to Romulus right now," said Romak. "We are trapped."

Linda Roth, the service coordinator for the Romulus Towers, a low-income senior housing building, said she agrees with Romak.

"It is a monopoly," said Roth. "We need to get someone else in here to give Comcast some competition."

Roth said that Comcast is definitely not as accommodating as they should be when it comes to seniors.

"The other services, like SBC and DTE are very cooperative with our seniors," said Roth. "They work with them and given them senior discounts without a problem and I can't say that is

true across the board with Comcast."

Comcast officials are not denying that the senior discount has been revoked.

"It was a special promotional rate offered several years ago that should have been adjusted a longtime ago," said Fred Eaton, Comcast director of corporate affairs for the Detroit west area.

Eaton questioned the equity of seniors being charged at the lower rate.

"It is right that they (the seniors) have been getting such a bargain for the last 4 years?"

Romak said the bottom line is that giving a discount to seniors would not hurt Comcast's profits.

"They are one of the biggest cable providers in the entire country," said Romak. "I don't think it would kill them to give seniors a discounted rate on their cable services."

School lunch prices to stay at same rates

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Despite increases in the cost of some food items, the Romulus School district was able to keep the cost of school lunches down, according to Bill Routhier, the director of business and finance.

Routhier said he was pleased that the district was able to keep the prices as low as possible despite the rising costs of food products.

Routhier said the recent low-carbohydrate diet craze has

caused a significant rise in the cost of high protein foods such as chicken and beef.

The cost for school lunches at the elementary schools will be \$1.75 each day and \$2 at both the middle school and high school. The food services department is also offering parents the option of purchasing pre-paid packages of 10 lunches at \$17.50 for elementary students and \$20 for middle school and high school students. Pre-paid lunch tickets can be redeemed at any time during the school year.

Some residents may be eligible for a discount, too. The district uses an income guidelines chart to determine if families within the district are eligible for the free and/or reduced lunch programs. Families will receive a 40-cent discount in the reduced program.

Parents interested in either of these programs should request a form from their child's school. The school will notify them of their eligibility within 10 days of receipt of their application.

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD AUGUST 9, 2004
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ROMULUS CITY HALL,
11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear.
Present: LeRoy Burcroff, William Crova, Randolph Gear, Michael Prybyla,
William Wadsworth.
Excused: Charles Miller, Debbie Romak.
Administrative Officials in Attendance:
Alan Lambert, Mayor
Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
Pamela Morrison Kersey, CMFA, Treasurer

1. Motion by Crova supported by Burcroff to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-337

2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held August 2, 2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

3A. No Action Taken.

04-338

3B. Motion by Crova, supported by Wadsworth to approve the request from Concessions Michigan LLC and Wayne County Airport Authority (Co-Licensees), McNamara Terminal, Detroit Metro Airport, Space W-8C, Romulus, MI 48242, PO Detroit, Wayne County to transfer Classification of 2003 Tavern Licensed Business (MCL 436.1531(10); NonTransferable to a Class C License.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-339

3C. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to approve the request from Concessions Michigan LLC and Wayne County Airport Authority (Co-Licensees), McNamara Terminal, Detroit Metro Airport, F1-B Romulus, MI 48242, Wayne County for a New Class C License issued under MCL 436.1531 (10).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-340

3D. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadsworth to approve the request from Midfield Concession Enterprises, Inc., and Wayne County Airport Authority (Co-Licensees) for a New Class C License issued under MCL 436.1531 (10), Non-Transferable to be located at Midfield Terminal, Detroit Metro Airport, Space 5-2C, Romulus, MI 48242, Wayne County.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes-Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

3E. No Action Taken.

03-341

3F. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to approve second reading and final adoption of PC Case#2004-002 Grant-Perry Development; Preserve of Romulus subject to final review of the Agreement and exhibits by our Legal Counsel.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

03-342

4A. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Mabel Ptack.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-343

4B. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crova requesting the Administration to bring back to Council cost - maintenance to restore the World War I Monument at the corner of Goddard and Shook, including the light on Flag Pole; and that the Department of Public Works be designated to provide regular monument maintenance.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to accept the Chairman's Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-344

5A. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to award Bid #03/04-37 RFP Energy and Operational Conservation Program and HVAC System Maintenance to the only bidder, Honeywell International at a total bid price of \$2,499,858.00, with an annual maintenance fee not to exceed \$50,000.00 per year.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-345

5A2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to adopt a formal resolution authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to execute the appropriate agreements with Honeywell International, Inc., and Citimortgage, Inc.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-346

5B. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to adopt the following Split & Combination Fee Schedule as recommend by the City Assessor:

SPLITS & COMBINATIONS

One Parcel created:	\$85.00
Two Parcel created:	170.00
Three Parcels created:	255.00
Four Parcels created:	340.00
Each Additional Parcel:	85.00
MAXIMUM	NO MAXIMUM

NEW SUBDIVISION & CONDO PLATS

Per Lot or Unit created: \$50.00

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-347

5C. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crova to schedule a Study Session to be held in the Romulus City Council Chambers located at 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174, September 27, 2004 at 6:30 p.m., for the purpose of discussing the implementation of the paperless Council packet project.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-348

5D. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to approve the FY 2003/2004 encumbrances for Supplies and Services as presented by the Finance Department.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-349

5E. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to adopt the, formal Notice of Intent to issue Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$3,500,000 for cost to acquire, construct, furnish and equip a new Senior Citizen Community Center and related site improvements; and, to publish Exhibit A - Official Notice to Electors and Taxpayers of Intent to Issue Bonds secured by the Taxing of Power of the City and Right of Referendum.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-350

5F. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to concur with Purchasing Coordinator Lynn Conway, and DPW Director, Carl Brooks and award Bid #04/05-01 Pavement Marking Program to the only bidder, R.S. Contracting, Inc., at a bid price of \$.045 per linear foot, for a total not to exceed \$17,200.00 for the 2004/2005 pavement marking season.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-351

5G. Motion by Crova, supported by Wadsworth to concur with Purchasing Coordinator Lynn Conway and DPW Director, Carl Brooks and award Bid \$04/05-04 Three Year Contract for Janitorial Supplies to Lower Huron Chemical.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-352

5H. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadsworth to have the City Clerk forward a resolution to the Wayne County Permit Division, guaranteeing the maintenance of 10' of storm sewer in the Van Born Road right-of-way for the Bravada Plaza Project, located at 35681 Van Born Road within the City of Romulus.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-353

6A1. Motion by Crova, supported by Prybyla to schedule an Executive Session for Monday, August 23, 2004 at 6:03 p.m., to be held in the City Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-354

6A2. Motion by Crova, supported by Wadsworth to vacate alley abutting Lots 208 thru 211, and Lots 213 thru 218, Supervisors Romulus Plat Number 11, adjacent to the Romulus Senior Center.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth.
Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Obituaries

MCLAUGHLIN, Benjamin

Benjamin McLaughlin, 64, a lifelong resident of Belleville, died Aug. 16.

Among his survivors are his wife of nearly 50 years, Sharon J. (Vickers) McLaughlin; children, April McLaughlin of Belleville, Dwayne McLaughlin of Jackson and Dean McLaughlin of Detroit; sisters, Elaine (Arthur) Dupont of Taylor, Elizabeth (Alex) Hammond of Southgate, Evelyn Schmidt of Wayne and Edith Nicholas of Kentucky; a sister-in-law, Janice McLaughlin of Belleville, and five grandchildren.

A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

BAKER, Robert G.

Robert G. Baker, 78, of Belleville, died Aug. 16.

Among his survivors are his wife, Mildred E. (Mida) Baker; children, Robert G. (Sharon) Baker, Jr. of Coto de Caza, CA, James L. (Linda) Baker of Frankenmuth and Joan E. (Thomas) Vicary of Oak Ridge, TN; a brother, Alvin (Alice) Baker of Ypsilanti; 10 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Baker was a 1943 graduate of Belleville High School. He was a member of the Belleville Rotary Club where he demonstrated perfect attendance for 33 years. He was on the fire department for 50 years, the planning commission for 16 years and served as chairman for 7 years. He also served on the Belleville Downtown Development Authority for 6 years.

Mr. Baker was an electrical inspector for 40 years and was the owner of Willis Hardware for 21 years. He earned his private pilots' license at the age of 59 and was a 4H leader for 15 years.

Funeral services were at St. Paul's Evangelical Church in

Belleville where Mr. Baker was a member and active with the Young Peoples' Society.

Interment was at Glen Eden Cemetery in Livonia.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

HOWARD, Drucilla G.

Drucilla G. Howard, 56, of Lincoln Park, died Aug. 21.

Among her survivors are her husband, Charles G. Howard; sons, Charles W. (Jennifer) Howard of Riverview and Robert Lee Moore of Lincoln Park; brothers, William (Sandra) Zimmerman of Warren and J. R. Perkins of Fredericktown, OH; sisters, Shirley Faye Colston of Amelia, OH and Jackie (Bob) Scott of Marysville, OH, Caria Davis and Kim Perkins, both of Fredericktown, OH; her mother, Frankie (Smith) Kilgore, also of Fredericktown; three grandchildren, Harvey (Rusty) Russell Chapman, Austin Tyler Chapman and Charles W. Howard II, and five step-grandchildren.

Funeral services were at the Crane Funeral Home in Romulus with the Rev. Robert J. White of Grace Baptist Church in Belleville officiating.

Interment was at Romulus Cemetery.

KRESS, Peter M.

Peter M. Kress, 82, of Van Buren Township, died Aug. 22.

Among his survivors are his children, Peter "Mickey" (Connie) Kress of Jackson, Patti (Edward) D'Autorio of Shreveport, LA, Paul (Suzanne Collins) Kress of Ypsilanti, Phyllis (Jerry) Voorheis of South Lyon, Pamela (Glen) Ruch of Indianapolis, ID, and Priscilla (Jim) North of Columbus, OH; a sister-in-law, Isabell Kress of St. Clair Shores; several nieces and nephews, great-nieces and nephews; five grandchildren, and a great-grandson.

Mr. Kress served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He

retired from the Ford Motor Co. Wixom Plant after more than 30 years. He was a member of the UAW Local 36, Holy Trinity Orthodox Church Brotherhood, the Dearborn Coin Club and the September Days Senior Citizens, where he and his late wife, Lillian Frances Kress, were known as Mr. And Mrs. Senior Democrats. Mr. Kress delivered Meals on Wheels and was a member of the Michigan Numismatic Society.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with the Rev. Lev Kopistiansky officiating.

Interment was at Hillside Cemetery in Belleville.

CHANDLER, Roger Lee

Roger Lee "Mad Dog" Chandler, 48, of Romulus, formerly of Belleville and Ypsilanti, died Aug. 21.

Among his survivors are his children, Temicka S. Jackson of Jefferson City, IN, Roger Anthony (Davon) Chandler of Romulus, Sabrina Reney Chandler of Belleville and Vaness Kay Chandler, also of Belleville; his parents, Richard Lee and Dorothy Marie (Short) Chandler of Romulus; brothers, Jimmie J. Chandler of Detroit and Johnny L. (Linda Short) Chandler of Belleville; sisters, Carolyn S. (Gary) Clemens of Belleville, Linda G. Chandler of Ypsilanti and Ann M (Samuel) Griffith of Warren, IN, and four grandchildren.

Mr. Chandler was a 30-year employee of the Ford Motor Co. Rawsonville Road Plant. He was a member of UAW Local 898 and attended the Maranatha Baptist Church.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with the Rev. Paul D. Bostwick officiating.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock.

SIMMONS, Rosalee Mary

Rosalee Mary Simmons, 73,

of Romulus, Died Aug. 24.

Among her survivors are her daughter, Sherry (Doug) Simpson; a son, Fred P (Lynell) Simmons' a brother; two sisters; five grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Arrangements were entrusted to Michigan Memorial Funeral Home in Huron Township.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park.

VAUGHN, Alice L.

Alice L. Vaughn, 79, of Romulus, died Aug. 23.

Among he survivors are her husband, Charvel R. Vaughn; sons, John T (Joann) Scabolt of Lorton, VA, William (Kerry) Vaughn, Jerry (April) Vaughn and Bryan Vaughn, all of Romulus; brothers, Wade Hurdle of Myrtle Beach, NC and Gene Hurdle of Norton, VA; a sister, Theresa Young of Romulus; a daughter-in-law, Barbara Seabolt of Columbia, MO; 16 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were at the Crane Funeral Home with the Rev. Bruce Haltom of Ball Road Tabernacle officiating.

Interment was at Parkview Memorial Garden in Livonia.

KENNEDY, Lionel A.

Lionel A. Kennedy, 55, of Westland, died June 14.

Among his survivors is his wife of 32 years, Linda; a son, Lionel II; and three grandchildren, Jasmyn, Devin and Dominic.

Funeral services were at Mt Olive COGIC in Ypsilanti with the Rev. Willie E. Sheard officiating.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Penn Funeral Home.

HAWKINS, Virginia

Virginia Hawkins, 67, of Inkster, died June 22.

Among her survivors are her husband of 37 years, Calvin; a daughter, Karla; a son, Calvin Jr,

and eight grandchildren.

Funeral services were at Greater Grace Temple in Taylor with Bishop Gary Harper officiating.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Penn Funeral Home in Inkster.

SCOTT, Orie

Orie Scott, 86, of Westland, died June 23.

Among her survivors are her daughter, Lois; a brother, Travis; a daughter-in-law, Terrie; seven grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were at Springhill Baptist Church with the Rev. Oscar Carter officiating. Interment was at Westlawn Cemetery in Wayne.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Penn Funeral Home in Inkster.

RIORDAN, Maurice Alfred

Maurice "Moe or Al" Alfred Riodran, 49, of Wayne, died Aug. 4.

Among his survivors are his wife, Lori; children, Lisa Bowan, Dustin, Beth and Sean Rirodan; his mother, Catherine (Buddy) Blaylack; siblings, Mary, Anthony, Kathleen and Michael, and a granddaughter, Aurora.

Funeral services were at Harry J. Will Funeral Home in Wayne with the Rev. Dave Dahlberg and Father Jack Baker officiating.

Interment was at Parkview Memorial Park in Livonia.

GREEN, Barbara Ann

Barbara Ann Green, 59, of River Rouge, died June 24. Among her survivors are her children, Vonda and Grant, and three grandchildren.

Mrs. Green was employed by Outer Drive Hospital for 27 years.

Funeral services were at the Penn Funeral Home in Inkster with the Rev. Arthur Willis officiating.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-354

6A2. Motion by Crova, supported by Wadsworth to vacate alley abutting Lots 208 thru 211, and Lots 213 thru 218, Supervisors Romulus Plat Number 11, adjacent to the Romulus Senior Center.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-355

6B1. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crova to concur with City Treasurer Pamela Kersey, and adopt a resolution to defer 2004 Summer and Winter taxes without penalties and interest until February 28, 2005 for the following qualified homestead property taxpayers:

- 1) 62 years of age or older, including the unmarried surviving spouse of a person who is 62 years of age or older at the time of death.
- 2) Paraplegic, Quadriplegic
- 3) Eligible Service Person, Eligible Veteran, Eligible Widow or Widower.
- 4) Blind Person
- 5) Totally and Permanently Disabled.
- 6) Household income must not exceed \$25,000.

Applications must be filed in the Treasurers' Office located at 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174, no later than September 30, 2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth. Nays -

None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-356

11A. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to approve Warrant 04-15, authorizing the City Treasurer of the City of Romulus to disburse funds in the amount of Four Hundred Eighty Three Thousand, Six Hundred Six Dollars and Eleven Cents (\$483,606.11).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Abstain - Crova. Motion Carried.

04-357

11B. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to approve Warrant 04-15E (Elections), authorizing the City Treasurer of the City of Romulus to disburse funds in the amount of Twelve Thousand, Nine Hundred Seventy Three Dollars and Zero Cents (\$12,973.00).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

12. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crova to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held August 9, 2004.

Linda R. Choate
City Clerk

Publish: September 2, 2004

OPINION

School bells ring

This week, children everywhere said goodbye to summer and returned to school.

It's a time that is met with mixed reactions from both parents and their children; some parents look forward with relief to a quiet house, others who are perhaps sending their children off to their first days in the classroom, are a little more emotional. Students, for their part, are sometimes eager to reacquire themselves with school friends and sometimes reluctant to let go of another lackadaisical summer.

For school district officials, it means another year of planning to do the same thing with fewer and fewer resources. Foundation allowances from the state have been frozen, but costs continue to increase. It can make for a tricky financial situation.

Many districts have already started the process of looking for alternative funding where they can; many have implemented pay-to-play programs or increased the fees on existing programs, further shifting the burden to parents and the community. Others have investigated the possibility of an employee dedicated to generating more funds, whether through grants or community donations.

These types of discussions will probably become more and more prevalent until school officials get the relief – and the funding – they say they need from the state. Many districts are already raising red flags about their respective budgets in the years to come, warning their residents that changes may be on the way, and they may not be good ones.

Despite it all, though, one thing remains clear. Everyone is still dedicated to doing what they can with what they have, pushing the envelope to make school better for the children.

You can see it in virtually any school building you walk through. There's camaraderie there as teachers return to their classrooms to prepare for the coming year, an underlying sense of cheer. They may roll their eyes as they talk about unfunded mandates, new regulations and curriculum, but there's an excitement there, too, the genuine desire to get back to doing what they do best: educating children. There may be challenges, but they can be overcome.

It's a good thing to see.

An exercise in futility

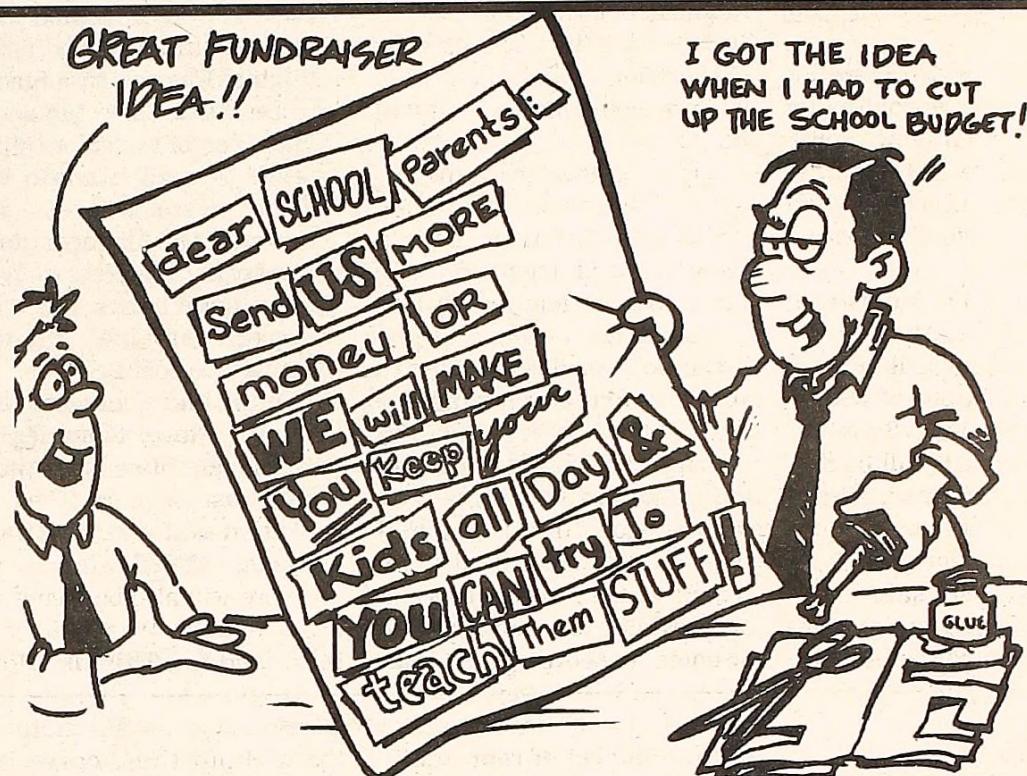
With a unanimous decision Monday morning, officials in Oakland County approved language in a recall petition against two Northville City Council members.

The only reason for the recall effort was the one listed in the proposed language: that the council members voted to approve a contractual agreement between the City of Northville and Northville Township for the township to provide dispatch and lock-up services for the city.

Now, the ball is in the court of those people who have pushed the recall effort. They've indicated that the decision to circulate petitions for Mayor pro-tem Carolann Ayers and Councilman Jerry Mittman – the two Oakland County council members – hinges on their decision on whether or not to appeal the rejection from Wayne County on the language for recall petitions against Mayor Chris Johnson and Councilman Kevin Hartshorne, who also voted for the proposal.

We've already stated that we think the recall effort is a bad way to go about things. It's a bully tactic. It certainly can't change the decision already approved by the council and the township; that can only be reversed through the processes set up in the contract. It will only cost the city more money it doesn't have, divide the community further and leave a lasting stain on the politics of a close-knit community. It would also certainly be a slap in the face of people who have served so will-

See **Recall**, page 7



A view from ground zero

They teach you a lot in journalism school but no matter how pervasive the curriculum may be, there are always some lessons that fall by the wayside.

Those types of between-the-cracks lessons have an uncanny tendency to land on my doorstep; if anyone sees me walking around town, scratching my head, that's probably why.

For example, they don't teach you in journalism school how to react when the building next to your office burns down and the mess, for one reason or another, is left sitting for an extended period of time.

That in itself would be a little odd, but when you consider that the primary player is an Asian American who doesn't – or at least acts like he doesn't – grasp the way things are supposed to be done, it becomes a little more strange.

No matter how you look at it, though, it seems as though we here in the City of Wayne are going to be forced to look at the rubble at the old Nankin Hospital site a lot longer than we want to.

I should put some qualifiers in here. First of all, when I say the site is next to my office, I'm not kidding. If I opened my window I

could touch it with a pencil.

I have concerns about what I'm breathing in as I walk from my car to the office; what may sift into my car if I leave the windows down, what may be filtering into our building through the vents. Call it paranoia, ignorance, or both. The residents who live on Sophia Street no doubt share these concerns, too.

Secondly, I'm just tired of looking at it, like most people in Wayne.

Now the city has been very careful in how they've approached the situation. They've carefully laid out the steps they've taken, even had a litany of testimony at a city council meeting to describe what they've done to follow the law and ensure that the property rights of Keh Liu, who owns the property, were not violated in any way.

They've given him ample time to clean it up, even told him the steps he must take to do that.

And Liu, for his part, has shown an interest in cleaning up the site. Well, sort of. He's shown up with a shovel to clean it up himself and had some dubious-looking help at other times, including a mother who apparently brought along her young

daughter to help. Or play in the ashes, rubble and debris. It wasn't pretty.

The reason this is a strange situation to deal with is because of the close proximity and relationship that exists between this property and that one. Our president and CEO, David Willett, has expressed an interest in purchasing the land. When I look out and see people there, I feel compelled to call the city and let them know. Perhaps that's the thing that bothers me the most about the whole thing; it's turned me into a tattletale.

Don't get me wrong. I want the place cleaned up as badly as anyone else. I just want it to be done in the right way, so nobody is endangered by the asbestos that the state has indicated is in the building. I also wouldn't stand for the city to trample on someone's property rights, no matter how fervently I secretly wish they'd send a wrecking ball there in the middle of the night.

It just drives me crazy when we feel like we have to defend the rights of someone who has been non-cooperative, even com-

See **Lessons**, page 7

Spend some time with children

Kids can lift your spirits

If you ever need to get a different perspective on life or boost your spirits, talk to your children or grandchildren. I think being around children is helpful for everybody.

Children bring an honesty and an outlook of life that we don't see in older people who might tend to get a little cynical. Kids aren't like that; they appreciate honesty and sincerity in people. And they have the same qualities themselves. It's a lot harder to fool a child than it is an adult.

I've always felt that when you deal with children you should

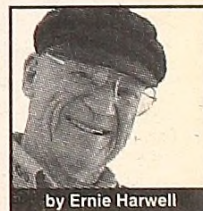
treat them as adults. They won't lie to you, and they have an enthusiasm that hasn't been jaded; they still have a bright outlook about things. They think that things can be done. They'll go right into things, whereas older people have a tendency to fall back and not attempt something that might broaden their horizons.

So spend time with the youngsters, we can all learn from them. And maybe they can learn a little bit from the older people.

And remember, take care of your health before it's longgg gone!

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the

Detroit Tigers" for more than four decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 86, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lulu," his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns entitled "Life After Baseball," is available at local bookstores or by calling 1-800-245-5082.



by Ernie Harwell

JOURNAL

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Publish: September 2, 2004

Blood drives scheduled at area churches

Andrea King
Staff Writer

As summer winds down, so do the critical months for blood donors; however, the need is always great. That's why Trinity Episcopal Church in Belleville is organizing a blood drive to gather donations.

Last week, the church sponsored a blood drive that saw an overwhelming response, according to Linda Maton, organizer of the Belleville-area church blood drives. She said that Trinity collected 46 pints of blood, thanks to the 58 people who came through the church doors.

"We surpassed our goal," she said. "Our goal was to collect 38-40

pints. Thanks to all the walk-ins, we did."

Although Trinity has reached their donation goals, Sue Merrit, charge nurse for the American Red Cross, said that the collection duties never stop. The summer months are the time blood donations are down.

"It's normal in the summer to have a shortage because of the schools (from where 13 percent of blood donations come) being out and people are on vacation," she said. "The summer is also the months where more accidents occur, causing a bigger need for blood."

Merrit said that in September, donations will begin to pick up.

"Once schools start and people

"
The summer is also the months where more accidents occur, causing a bigger need for blood.
Sue Merrit

get back into their regular routine, that's when we see an increase," she said.

Anyone at least 17 years old, weighing at least 110 pounds, with an iron level of 38 percent, and in overall good health can donate, according to Merrit. She added that the most critically needed blood type is O-negative.

"It's the universal donor," she said. "If someone is in an accident, and we run out of their blood type then we can give them O-negative

blood."

Through their 17 mobile units, Merrit said that the Red Cross receives about 1,200 pints of blood a day, but it is never enough.

Those who were not able to donate last week at the church, and still want to, will have the opportunity. Maton said that the Belleville-area churches—First United Methodist Church, St. Anthony's and Trinity Episcopal Church—share the duties of hosting blood drives. Each church

hosts one every two months. Trinity Episcopal Church sponsors a blood drive twice a year. The next drives will take place at: First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St., in October; St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 409 W. Columbia, in December and back at Trinity, 11575 Belleville Road, in February.

Merrit added that the next big blood drive through the American Red Cross will be a 9/11 commemoration on Sept. 9 at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

People can also donate blood by visiting one of the Wayne County Red Cross locations in Livonia, Novi or Dearborn.

For more information contact the Red Cross at 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

Golf scramble to fund playground

Employees of the Belleville Chiropractic Wellness Clinic are doing their part to benefit the children of the community by hosting a golf scramble to generate \$30,000 for new school playground equipment.

The event will take place Sept. 19 at the Fox Hill Country Club, 8768 North Territorial in Plymouth. Registration begins at noon and golfing will begin with a shotgun start at 1:30 p.m. Donations made will include: lunch at the turn of the

tournament, non-alcoholic beverages on the course, chipping, closest to the pin and longest drive contests, prizes, raffles, a 50/50 drawing and a steak dinner. Dinner for non-golfers will be available at 6 p.m.

Other sponsorship opportunities are available.

For more information, to sponsor, or to donate, call 734-697-3210 or visit bellechiro@ameritech.net. Donations can also be made to: Belleville Chiropractic Wellness Clinic, 10800 Belleville Road, 48111.

CITY OF ROMULUS PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING COMPREHENSIVE (MASTER) PLAN UPDATE

Pursuant to Michigan Public Act 285, as amended (The Municipal Planning Act), notice is hereby given that the City of Romulus will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 20, 2004 for the purpose of considering the updated Comprehensive (Master) Plan for the City of Romulus. The public hearing will be held at the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne, Romulus, MI 48174-1485.

All are encouraged and welcome to attend. Written comments may be submitted until 12:00 noon, Monday, September 20, 2004, and should be addressed to Cynthia I. Lyon, AICP, City Planner, Economic Development Department, 11111 Wayne, Romulus, MI 48174-1485.

Linda R. Choate, CMC,
City Clerk

Publish: September 2, 2004

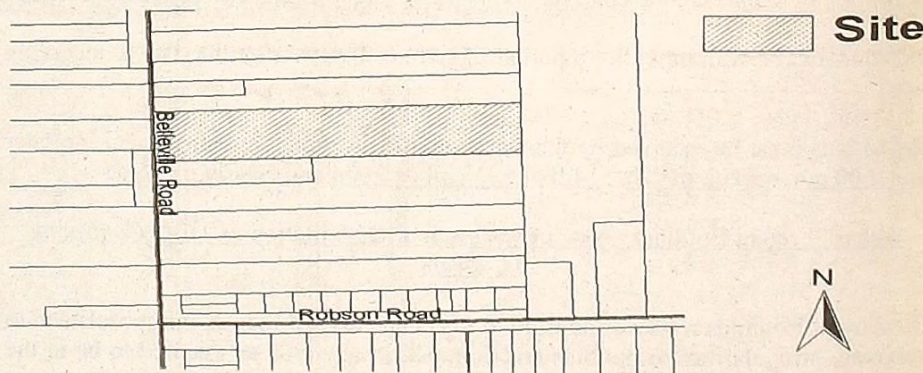
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on Tuesday September 7, 2004 at 7:30 p.m., in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan

The Public Hearing relates to the following described property:

This is a portion of parcel with the tax ID number V-125-83-038-99-0053-000. This property is located on the east side of Belleville Road between Ecorse and Robson Roads. A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below.

The applicant is requesting special use approval. A special use approval is required for a Church per Section 7.03 (f) of the Zoning Ordinance. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00p.m., September 7, 2004, the hearing date.



In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Publish: September 2, 2004

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, September 14, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan 48111.

The Public Hearing relates to Parcel Number V125-83-131-99-0008-000 and V125-83-131-99-0007000, also know as 16565 & 16595 Elwell Road. The properties are located on the east side of Elwell Road, between Bak and Lohr Roads.

The subject site is located within the Charter Township of Van Buren AG (Agricultural) Zoning District. The applicant, Dena Ostrowski, is requesting a variance to the Township's Lot Split Ordinance, Section 78-168 to permit the creation of 2 non-conforming parcels of land.

The applicant is requesting a variance to:

SECTION 78-168 LOT SPLIT ORDINANCE

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the date of the above reference Public Hearing.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Publish: September 2, 2004

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Technology-based learning	Foreign languages
After-school programming	After-school programming
State-aligned curriculum	State-aligned curriculum
NCA accreditation in many schools	NCA accreditation in all schools

SPORTS

Mustang soccer team starts season undefeated

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Northville Mustang soccer club celebrated their home opener with a 3-1 victory against the South Lyon Lions on Saturday morning.

Despite the watery conditions, the 'Stangs pulled ahead early with a goal from junior Enrique Acevedo off a throw-in from junior Mike Cornelius. Acevedo left-footed the ball into the top corner from about 22 yards out, according to Coach Henry Klimes.

"It was a beautiful goal, there was nothing the goalie could have done," he said.

The lead didn't last too long, though, in the physical game. With 3 minutes left in the first half, a Northville defenseman pulled down an opposing player. South Lyon was awarded a penalty kick that Kenny Coppola took and scored on to knot the score, 1-1.

"I don't think what our defenseman did was necessary," Klimes said. "We put ourselves in a challenging situation at the end of the half, which is something we don't want to do."

Help came in the second in the form of a penalty shot. James Hannah capitalized on it and put the Mustangs up 2-1. Cornelius added to the lead to make it 3-1. Northville continued to pressure through the second half and had some quality opportunities. They didn't score any other goals, but the pressure was enough to hold off the Lions. South Lyon had difficulty getting the ball past senior goalie Steve Besk, who made eight saves, including four huge ones to keep the team in the game, according to Klimes.

The Mustangs now reside at 5-0 for the season. Last year they were 2-1-2 at this point.

Last week Northville trampled the Howell Highlanders, 7-0, in their season opener at Howell. Hannah led the scoring with two goals. Cornelius, Nick Kaldis, Drew Wendland, Chris Leonnetti and John Junca all scored one goal in the onslaught.

Besk and Ryan Pratt shared time in net for the shutout.

Before that, the team warmed up at the Country Day Tournament. There, they breezed through the competition and only allowed one goal by opposing teams.

In the first round they defeated Ann Arbor Green Hills, 7-0, with three goals from Hannah and two from Cornelius to lead the way.

In the semi-finals, Phil Yutzy scored both of Northville's goals in their 2-1 victory against Utica Ford. Utica scored their one goal off of a penalty kick so, "the score makes the game look closer than it really was," said Klimes.

The Mustangs faced Country Day in the finals and walked away with a 2-0 win. Hannah and Kaldis each scored a goal to help win the tournament. Besk remained in the net for all three games.

The Mustangs have 15 returning players, including eight starters from last year's team that made it to the Division 1 regional championship game.

The boys will face higher expectations this year after the girls team won the state championship this past spring.

"There are high expectations," Klimes said. "The girls' win is inspiring but it's a different league. Now it's our turn to earn it. The boys have worked hard and they deserve to win."

Salem Rocks football rolls over Pinckney Pirates, 35-7

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Despite rain delays and having to finish the second half of their first game on Saturday, the Salem Rocks varsity football team rolled to a 35-7 victory in their season and home opener last weekend against the Pinckney Pirates.

Salem jumped to an early lead when senior quarterback Jeff Lake, a halfback last year, broke loose for an 80-yard scamper to the end zone. The extra point was good to make it a 7-0 game.

In the second quarter, junior halfback Kevin Bradley ran for a 72-yard score on a counter play to extend the Rocks' lead, 14-0. The

Pirates countered with a touchdown to cut into Salem's lead, 14-7.

Lake made it a 21-7 game when he rushed for a 24-yard score at the end of the second quarter.

Then a rain delay extended the half-time intermission and lightning eventually caused the game to be delayed until the following day.

The contest commenced on Saturday at 1 p.m. Salem started where they left off the night before—with a score.

Bradley connected with Lake on a halfback pass for 30-yard touchdown pass. The score extended Salem's lead to 28-7,

which took the wind out of the Pirates' sail. Salem's solid defense never allowed the Pirates' offense to get on track. However, the Rocks' ground attack continued to overpower as Lake ran in his fourth score of the game from 1 yard out. That was enough to end the game 35-7 for Salem.

"There were a lot of delays but we bounced back pretty well," said Salem Coach Bob Cummings. "The guys hung together and played well."

The Rocks are coming off of a mediocre season last year but will be solid with some key-returning players this year.

"Last year we had more of a

finesse passing game," Cummings said. "This year we will have more of a hard-run offense."

Lake and Bradley are both key players that will lead in the ground attack. Both tower at 6-foot, 2-inches and weigh in at more than 200 pounds according to Cummings. John Lehane, right tackle/middle linebacker; Steven Kaptur, offensive guard; Corey Sinischo, offensive tackle/defensive end; and Eric Dimes, offensive guard/defensive end, are all key veterans returning to the lineup, he said.

Next up the ground attack-oriented Rocks will take on cross-campus rivals the Plymouth Wildcats at 7 p.m. tomorrow at

home. Although Plymouth is in their first year with a varsity team, they shouldn't be overlooked, Cummings said.

"We're going to have to play a tough game," he said. "They're a well-couched team. It should be a pretty good game."

Around the field

Tigers split week

The Belleville Tigers girls' varsity basketball split their games last week. The young team, consisting of four sophomores, one freshman and five seniors, defeated the John Glenn Rockets, 58-28. Erika Brewer led the team with 13 points and Taylor Manning had 10. Cindy McGoldrick added eight points and nabbed eight rebounds while Danica Holmes offered six steals.

They continued the roller coaster ride from last year when they went from a big win over the Rockets last Tuesday to a close loss to Dearborn on Thursday. Despite a strong

second half, 18 points in each quarter, the Tigers fell 56-51. Brewer led the team with 23 points and Taylor Manning followed with 13. The Tigers will host the Romulus Eagles at 7 p.m. on Sept. 7.

Zebras fall in season, home opener

The Wayne Memorial Zebras varsity football fell to the Stevenson Spartans, 32-22, on Friday. Coach Craig Hnatuk had high expectations of his new 4-3 defense, but he said nobody stepped up to make plays. Stevenson managed to take an early 18-0 lead. But Wayne bounced back with two scores to

make it an 18-14 game at half time. Another score from each side made it a 25-22 game with Wayne in control of the ball. They marched down to the 5-yard line but a faulty pass led to an interception by Stevenson. The Zebra defense was unable to hold and the Spartans scored to put the game away, 32-22.

Terrell Ford carried the ball 12 times for 96 yards, which included a 40-yard TD run. Blain Simmons reversed the field for a 65-yard score. He ended the game with 106 yards on 10 tries. He also set up Andrew Crushon's 2-yard trip to the end zone. The Zebras face Churchill at 7 tonight in Livonia.

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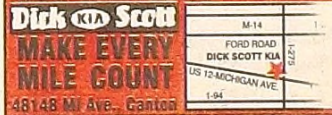
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Lady Eagles fall to De Porres, 62-56, but remain positive

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Although the Romulus Eagles were out-sized at every position in their home opener against the St. Martin De Porres Eagles last Thursday night, they fought to the bitter end and nearly overcame the odds. They lost, 62-56.

Romulus Head Coach Rhonda Henry wasn't displeased with the loss, though.

"I thought it was a moral victory," she said. "I'm proud of the way we played against them. It's absolutely the way we wanted to start the season.

"We have to play the best to be the best," she added.

De Porres, ranked No. 1 in Class C, may have had the size advantage but Romulus countered with speed and quickness.

De Porres maintained a seven-point lead through much of the first two periods and extended it to nine with a little more than 4 minutes left in the half. Romulus scored six unanswered points in the final 4 minutes to close the gap, 26-23.

However, Romulus 5-foot 4-inch point guard, Paris Hawkins, earned her fourth foul 1:30 into the third quarter. With Hawkins on the bench De Porres managed to get into a rhythm and extend-

ed their lead by 10 points, 46-36, to close out the third period. Hawkins returned to the floor at the beginning of the fourth and Romulus forced three turnovers and went on an 8-0 spree to make it a two-point game, 46-44.

The tired De Porres team started to make costly turnovers. Romulus knotted the game at 48 with a jumper from Hawkins with 5:13 on the clock. Romulus continued the pressure and a short jumper by Ashley Sibby gave Romulus their first lead, 50-48, with 4:37 left in the game.

De Porres, with the help by a few misfired lay-ups by Romulus, made one more run and overcame Romulus in the end, 62-56.

"We're pleased with how well we played," Henry said. "We're only going to get better from here. We're focused on the post-season. There, we'll have to play teams like De Porres."

Janiece Armstrong led the Eagles' offense with 16 points and also notched three assists and three steals. Sibby added 14 points and nabbed six rebounds while Buckley quietly earned 11 points and made six steals. Hawkins finished with nine points and made 12 assists.

Romulus will take on Dearborn Heights Robichaud at 7 p.m. tonight at home.



Play ball

Romulus High School baseball players (from left) Eric Behnke, William Williams and Philip Roscoe all played for the Detroit All Stars at the Major League RBI World Series. Behnke displayed his knuckle ball pitches, Williams featured his infield skills and Roscoe was the team's leading catcher. Major League Baseball treated high school baseball players from around the country to six days at the Renaissance Center. The athletes and their parents attended a gala banquet hosted by the organization. Major League Baseball also donated four new baseball diamonds to Detroit Youth Baseball this year. Teams from Chicago, IL; Fort Worth, TX; Los Angeles, CA; Pawtucket, RI.; Philadelphia, PA; and Santo Domingo, DO, participated in the tournament.

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1954 PA 188 Proceedings Notice of Street Lighting Special Assessment Hearing Pine Forest Subdivision Charter Township of Van Buren Wayne County, Michigan

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that as a result of petitions by the developer and property owners within the Township signed by the record owners of land whose footage constitutes more than 50 percent of the total footage of the hereinafter described as Pine Forest Subdivision Street Lighting Special Assessment District and the Township Board of the Charter Township of Van Buren proposes to purchase, construct and maintain street lights and to create a special assessment district for the recovery of the cost thereof by special assessment against the properties benefited therein.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the District within which the foregoing improvements are proposed to be constructed and within which the cost thereof is proposed to be assessed is more particularly described as follows: Pine Forest Subdivision, Lots 1 through 114 inclusive.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township has received a preliminary street lighting layout plan from Detroit Edison indicating 2 street lights to be constructed with an annual operating cost of \$515.50. This plan is on file at the Township Clerk's Office and is available for examination and will further be available at the public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a public hearing upon the proposed street lighting project design and cost will be held at the Charter Township of Van Buren Municipal Center at 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville, Michigan, commencing at 7:30 p.m. on September 7, 2004.

At such hearing, the board will consider any written objections to any of the foregoing matters which might be filed with said board at or prior to the time of said hearing as well as any revisions, corrections, amendments, or changes to said Plans, Estimates and Costs or to said Special Assessment District.

All interested persons are invited to be present at the aforesaid time and place and to submit comments concerning any of the foregoing.

*In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, accommodations can be made available with advance notice.

Joannie Payne
Township Clerk

Publish: September 2, 2004

1954 PA 188 Proceedings Notice of Venetian Avenue and DeWitt Street (south of I-94) Engineering Special Assessment District Hearing Charter Township of Van Buren Wayne County, Michigan

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, OWNERS OF LAND ON VENETIAN AVENUE AND DEWITT STREET SOUTH OF I-94 AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Supervisor and Treasurer of the Township has reported to the Township Board and filed in the office of the Township Clerk for public examination a special assessment roll prepared by the Township covering all properties within the Special Assessment District for the Venetian Avenue and DeWitt Street (south of I-94) Engineering Special Assessment District benefited by the road project. Said assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing a portion of the costs of the development of design and construction plans to repave Venetian Avenue and DeWitt Street (south of I-94) and work incidental thereto with the aforesaid Venetian Avenue and DeWitt Street (south of I-94) Engineering Special Assessment District as more particularly described in the proposal by Wade Trim Associates, Inc., dated 12 August 2004 on file with the Township Clerk at 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the owners of said parcels of land chose to proceed with Alternative 2-Preliminary Investigation for a cost not to exceed \$5,500.00. The owners of said parcels however do reserve the right to request the Township to amend the assessment roll up to an amount not to exceed \$31,800.00 as described in the Wade Trim proposal dated August 12, 2004 at a later date and the owners of the parcels understand that another hearing will have to be held in accordance with rules, regulations and requirements of PA 188 of 1954.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Treasurer has further reported that the assessment against each and every parcel of land within said District will be determined as follows:

All residentially used benefited parcels will be charged for one driveway.
All non-residentially used benefited parcels will be charged for the number of driveways currently in use on those properties.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Van Buren Township Board Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI on September 7, 2004 for the purpose of reviewing said special assessment roll and hearing any objections thereto. Said roll may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk during regular business hours of regular business days until the time of said hearing and may further be examined at said hearing. Appearance and protest at the hearing held to confirm the special assessment roll is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

An owner of party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or shall be permitted to file his or her appearance or protest by letter and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. (The owner or any person having an interest in the real property who protests in person or in writing at the hearing may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 30 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll.)

*In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, accommodations can be made available with advance notice.

Joannie D. Payne
Township Clerk

Publish: September 2, 2004

Last chance is today; don't let it slip away

The house sits on a cypress-shaded lane in the seaside California community called Carmel.

It's one of many little houses where, when you look through the front window, you see the magnificence of the great Pacific Ocean.

Many of the cottages in Carmel are named. The Seagull, Vista del Mer, Driftwood, and so on. One name stopped me in my tracks. As I topped the hill coming up from the beach, I spotted the house. In not so large letters on the front of the cedar shake home is "Last Chance."

I immediately wished I would have seen that sign 25 years ago, and, this is the important part, understood the meaning then, as I do now.

"Last Chance," what a wonderful philosophy for living each day to the fullest.

Twenty-five years ago, I would have read it and thought: that's too risky. Last chance to live in Carmel-by-the-sea or New York City, or Arizona, or Paris? Without a lot of money, it was out-of-the-question. There'd be time for that, I rationalized. And so, dreams died.

Fear stops many of us from living life fully and happily because we live as we have been taught.

I was 45 years old before I understood the real meaning of fear. I never looked

at fear in an honest, understanding way. For one thing, I was moving too fast, and, secondly, no one ever explained to me that those almost daily worries about things like money, were, in fact fear. To me it just meant work harder, make more and ignore the "worry," or being "nervous" about it.

I'm a reasonably intelligent man, but sometimes I wonder why I didn't recognize all those little worries, or things I'd be bothered by, or I was nervous about for what they were—fear. Instead, as many of us do, I lost sleep, was unhappy and lived a "Life is very serious business" existence.

Finally, with help from the big guy upstairs and quite a few friends down here, I learned the meaning of fear, and more importantly, how to deal with it.

When I was afraid of not getting my way, I learned to accept that it was all right.

With that acceptance came the understanding that I had a choice: to believe what was happening was indeed best for me.

Time would go by, I'd get antsy. OK, how's this been good for me? I'd question. When I did, I'd start getting agitated, unhappy and, you-got-it, fearful.

When I accepted that I might never understand why certain things happen

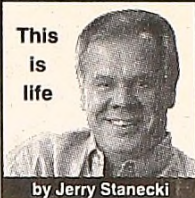
to me, and that wasn't important, I felt better. When I came to understand surrender was not defeat but victory, I became freer.

What do you think? How has fear taken from your happiness? And, what are you doing about it? Write and let me know.

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- 10. Coming Events
- 31. Help Wanted Sales

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- 55. Farm Equipment/Supplies
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- 57. Antiques
- 58. Flea Markets
- 59. Auctions
- 60. Misc. Sales
- 61. Misc. Items
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- 63. Business with Office & Equipment
- 64. Lawn & Garden Supplies

- 65. Tree Service
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- 67. Garden Plant / Supplies
- 68. Garden / Produce
- 70. Christmas Trees
- 72. Machinery Tools
- 73. Musical Merchandise
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- 93. Banquet Halls
- 94. Farm Land for Rent
- 95. Garages for Rent
- 97. Cottages for Rent
- 98. Mobile Homes for Rent
- 99. Mobile Home Lots for Rent

- 100. Will Share
- 101. Wanted to Rent
- 102. Storage
- 103. Business with Property
- 104. Farms with Acreage
- 105. Mobile Homes for Sale
- 106. Houses for Sale
- 107. Condos for Sale
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- 112. Commercial Lease
- 113. Real Estate Wanted
- 114. Auto Accessories
- 115. Autos for Sale
- 116. Antique & Classic Cars
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59. Auctions

CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC AUCTION
On September 7, 2004 the
Westland Police
Department will conduct
public auctions of
impounded, abandoned
vehicles. The first auction
will begin promptly at

10:00 a.m. at Westland
Service Towing, 37501
Cherry Hill, Westland, MI,
County of Wayne, where
the following vehicles will
be offered for sale to the
highest bidder:

1984 Oldsmobile Delta 88
2 Door-Blue
1G3AY37Y4EX377536

The second auction will
begin promptly at
11:00a.m. at Westland Car
Care, 6375 Hix Rd,
Westland, MI, County of
Wayne, where the follow-
ing vehicles will be offered
for sale to the highest
bidder:

1970 Chevrolet C-10
Pickup Truck-Blue
CE140S105674
1985 Ford CR VIC
2 Door-Blue
2FABP42F2FX128043
1991 Ford Tempo
4 Door-Gold
1FAPP36X6MK177569
1995 Dodge Caravan
Station Wagon-Red
2B4GH2536SR371076
1994 Pontiac Grand Am
2 Door-White
1G2NE153XRM535881
1986 Ford Tempo
4 Door-Gray
2FABP23X4GB231877
1990 Buick Century
4 Door-Brown
3G4AH54N0LS620582
1990 Chevrolet Cavalier
2 Door-Red
1G1JC14G0LJ188342
1984 Ford Mustang
2 Door-Black
1FABP2838EF145375
1990 Ford Ranger
Pickup Truck-Blue
1FTCR10A0LUA35135
1991 Mercury Sable
4 Door-Silver

1FACP52U3MG241172
1986 Dodge Caravan
Station Wagon-Yellow
2B4FK51G2GR796700
1990 Mitsubishi Galant
4 Door-Tan
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1992 Ford Probe
2 Door-Red
1ZVPT20CXN5228560
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4 Door-Blue
1G1BN51H5JR208926
1992 Suzuki GSX750F
MotorCycle-White
JS1GR78A3N2101517
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Pickup Truck-Gray
1FTDF15N9LLA52806
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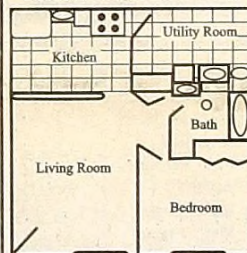
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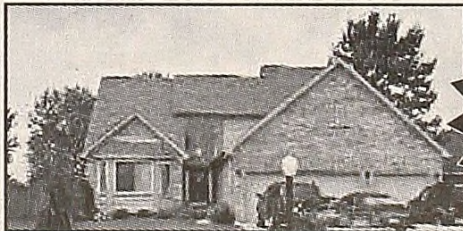
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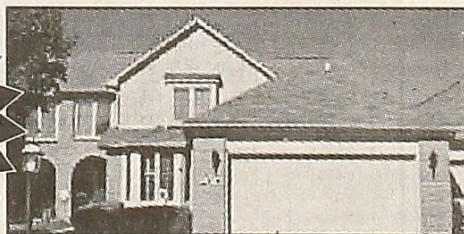


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Those are the only two words that can describe the new martial arts epic, *Hero*.

Well, except maybe breathtaking, stunning, wonderful and brilliant. And there's probably a few more, but, there's no need to overdo it.

Rarely is there a film that offers everything — drama, action, special effects, romance, and beautiful scenes and, most of all, a great story. But rarely is there a movie that is made like *Hero*.

Jet Li, one of today's most recognizable martial arts stars, plays a nameless warrior who is out to avenge the annihilation of his village. The culprit is a warlord who is using his hordes of soldiers to quickly overtake the other six regions that made up China before the Great Wall was built. He will stop at nothing to rule the entire land.

The movie starts near the end of the actual story but is told through the eyes of the nameless assassin as a series of flashbacks.

He first makes his way into the warlord's palace posing as a warrior who has defeated the three most well-known and lethal assassins in the seven regions: Silver Spear (Donnie Yen), Broken Sword (Tony Leung) and Falling Snow (Maggie Cheung). Once in the palace, the nameless one illustrates his encounters with the three other assassins.

After each story, the hero is allowed to advance closer to the warlord. However, the warlord challenges the stories and offers his own version of what really happened. This leads to a constantly changing plot line. Each version offers a different twist and audiences are forced to pay attention, although 'forced' is a strong word. The changing storyline may sound confusing, but it is actually almost impossible not to be transfixed by

the beauty of the photography and the intricate plot.

Audiences will be captivated by the beautifully constructed scenes. Some of the images are absolutely breathtaking, particularly the forest fight between Falling Snow and Broken Sword's servant, Moon, played by the mystically beautiful Zhang Ziyi of *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* fame.

The fight scenes — and there are several versions of each one — are all poetic and surreal in their own right. Some are even filled with jaw-dropping special effects. However, some of the scenes do verge on absurdity, such as the water fight between the nameless warrior and Broken Sword, but the film as a whole easily outweighs those few imperfections.

It's amazing to see the characters move so fluidly across the screen in the same manner the lyrical Chinese dialogue, which is all subtitled (just a warning), and

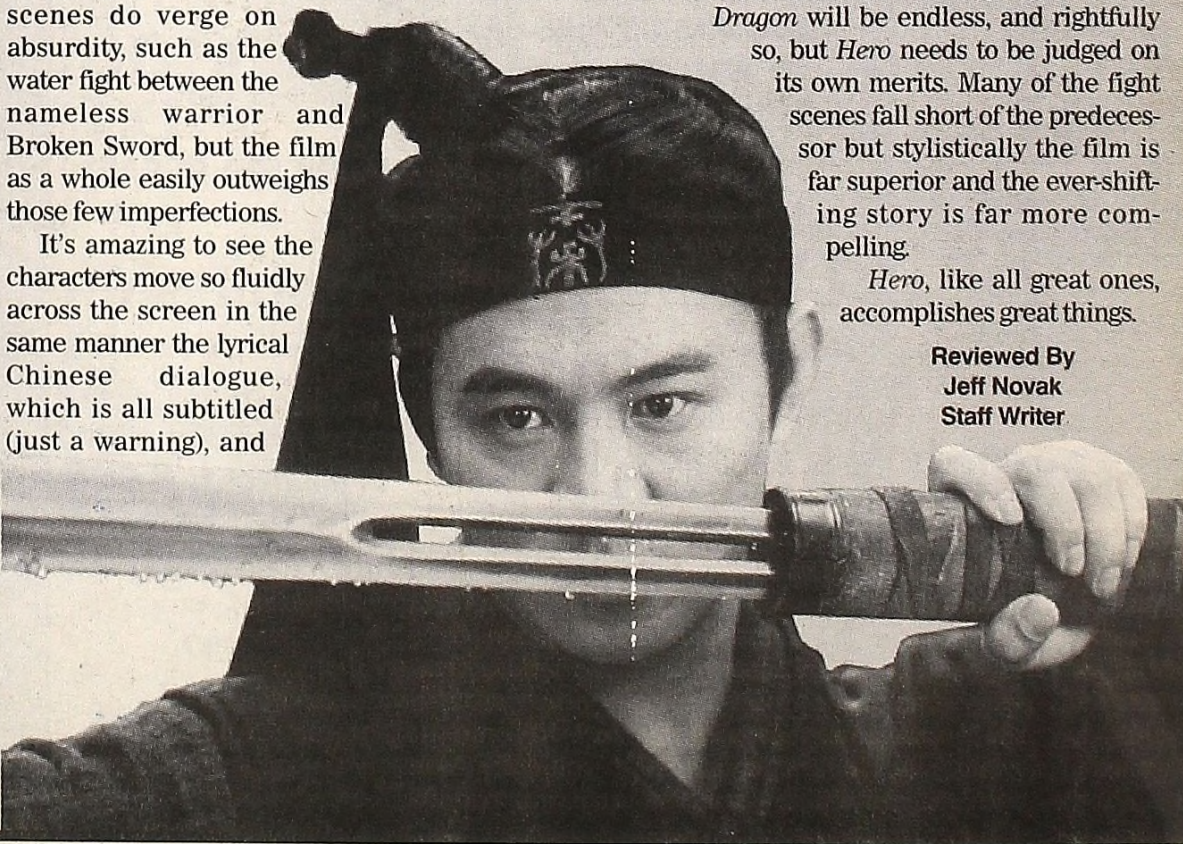
the rhythmical music in the film hits the ear. The fight sequences are some of the most amazing cinematography that will be seen this year and best part about them is the absence of the blood and gore normally associated with such martial art epics. The amount of blood seen in the film could probably be contained in a thimble.

The ending isn't a Hollywood one, thank goodness, and it's hard to decide who really is the villain. But it's all worth it. The film, from start to finish, is exciting, intriguing and intelligent—a must see.

The comparisons to *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* will be endless, and rightfully so, but *Hero* needs to be judged on its own merits. Many of the fight scenes fall short of the predecessor but stylistically the film is far superior and the ever-shifting story is far more compelling.

Hero, like all great ones, accomplishes great things.

Reviewed By
Jeff Novak
Staff Writer



Olympic champion

Woman wins gold medal, meets firefighter who saved her life

Scott Spielman
Editor

The medal may not be genuine gold, and the games didn't take place in Athens, Greece, but Nancy Johnson remembers her Olympic moment, all the same.

Johnson, a New Boston resident, won a gold medal recently during the bi-annual U.S. Transplant Games, a competition and survival celebration for those who have undergone transplant surgery.

The games took place in Minneapolis, MN, this year, where Johnson earned the medal in the 50-meter backstroke.

"It's really a good thing to be able to go out there and see all the other athletes competing," she said. "There definitely is life after a transplant."

Johnson, who grew up in the Wayne-Westland area and trains at the Wayne Community Center pool, is a bit of a success story in her own right. Six years ago she was diagnosed with a rare, acute type of Leukemia. Her only hope for survival was a complete bone marrow transplant, which is among the most arduous of transplant procedures. Her family couldn't help her out, either. One of her sisters had recently had a kidney transplant, and wasn't eligible. Her other sister wasn't a match.

A match was soon found for her, however, and the operation went off without a hitch. The recovery takes a year, but she

healed relatively quickly and soon decided to take part in the games, which she learned of through the National Kidney Foundation.

The event is set up exactly like the Olympics, she said. Participants march in the opening ceremonies - she marched with the rest of the Team Michigan. They are matched up in specific contests and the winners received gold, silver and bronze medals.

The level of competition varies between the athletes themselves, she said. Some there are really competitive, and others are there just to participate in the ceremonies, show support for others and often to meet their donors. About 6,000 people took part this year.

"A big part of the games is talking to all of the athletes and hearing their stories," she said.

Johnson eventually met her donor, and they've since become friends. She had to turn down Oprah Winfrey to do it, though.

Patients who receive organ or tissue transplants cannot contact their donors for one year. After that period they're free to send cards and determine whether they want to meet in person. It was a natural for Johnson, who learned that her donor was a New York City firefighter named Bill.

Bill, however, was afraid to fly. Johnson said she finally arranged to travel to New York City to meet him, when she was

contacted by staff members from Winfrey's show, who wanted them to meet live on the air.

"We had already made all of our own arrangements," Johnson said. "I knew he wouldn't get on a plane to fly to Chicago, so I had to turn them down."

She did offer to meet on camera, if Winfrey wanted to send a remote camera crew to New York. They politely declined, though.

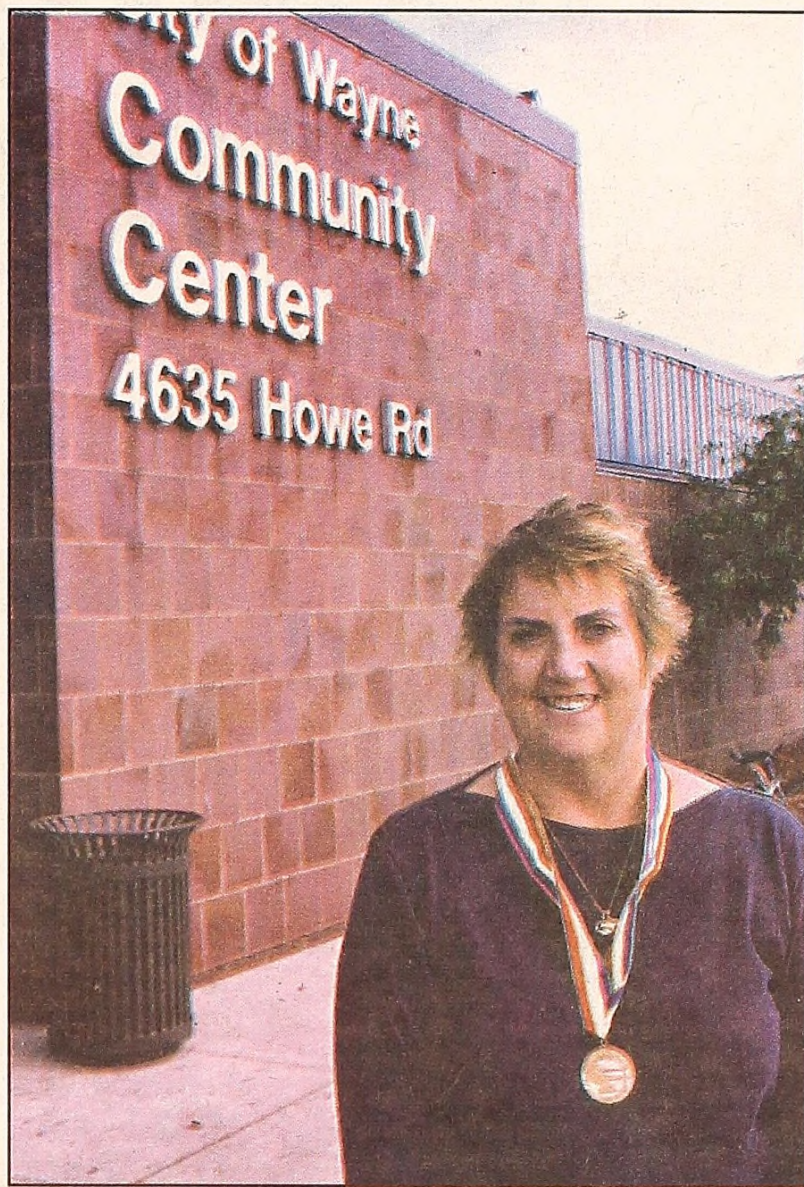
Soon after Johnson arrived in New York, she was asked if it was OK to arrange "a little bit" of publicity for the meeting. She said 'OK,' and soon found out what the New York meaning of "a little publicity" was.

When she arrived at the firehouse and went inside, the first person she saw was then-Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

The next thing was about 50 television cameras and throngs of photographers, flash bulbs gleaming.

"I couldn't believe it," she said.

Johnson said she's lucky that the operation was such a success. She's said she will continue to train at the Wayne Community Center, and hopes to take part in future games, as well. Some transplant recipients may want to put the whole ordeal behind them, but she said she's wants to remember it and Bill, her new-found friend who she said saved her life.



Nancy Johnson

"I don't want to forget about it," she said. "I want to remember, so that I can make the most out of every day that I have."

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